difference of opinion among experts as to whether the preservation of forests is necessary for the continuance of the rainfall which a country is getting. We cannot therefore say that forests are maintained merely for the purpose of the profit that is made by the sale of forest produce. As far as possible, Government are ready to throw out cultivable lands which are included in the reserves, *so far as that can be done*, as I said, *without detriment to the forests*.

In the second place, you said that for lands which are in occupation and under cultivation within the reserved forests there is not a sufficient margin of land left around. I understand that, as a matter of fact, there is a Government order which says that, for every plot of wet land inside the reserves, which is registered, an extent of one-fourth of that area must be left as margin surrounding it for the convenience of cultivation. I also understand that, during the local inspection, which you yourself referred to, it was found that, in the sale of the particular land, the margin that has been left was sufficient for the convenience of the cultivator. If there are any particular plots where a sufficient margin of land has not been left for the benefit of the cultivator and if such cases are brought to the notice of the Conservator of Forests or of the Government, the matter will be considered.

You referred to the disafforestation of four particular survey numbers in the Todupuzha reserve. I find that this subject was brought up on a previous occasion and that the reply then given was that, in two of these survey numbers, *viz.*, 1478/1 and 1459/1, some extent of land had already been disafforested, and that, with regard to the other two survey numbers, *viz.*, 1463/1 and 1471/1, they comprised some of the best forests of the Todupuzha Reserve and that therefore Government could not throw open that land for cultivation.

Your next point was about the Kanni Elam tract, that is, lands which were at one time cardamom estates but which have subsequently been abandoned. The policy of Government is to grant leases of these lands. The Conservator of Forests will render all help to those who take leases of these lands.

The last point that you mentioned is about house-sites, trenches, etc. That will be considered.

15. The inadequacy of the inducement offered by the Government for the destruction of proscribed rogue elephants.

MR. ALBERT J. WRIGHT (*Kanan Devan Planters' Association*) referred to the decision of the Government to the effect that a person who shoots a wild rogue elephant should not consider himself entitled to the tusks of the animal shot and said that the monetary reward of Rs. 50 offered instead was quite inadequate. The planting community did not take up the matter from a mercenary point of view; but the only inducement that would tempt them to pursue the game of a rogue elephant was the tusks which they could keep as a trophy. Shooting a proscribed rogue elephant was very expensive. An elephant travels

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far and at times very fast. Before it is shot, it has to be identified and located and after destruction its tusks had to be handed over to the nearest Police Station or Forest Range Office. All these entailed huge expenditure. Far from advocating a monetary reward or presenting the case from a commercial standpoint, the member suggested the desirability of making the reward adequate if the alternative of permitting the person who shot the animal to retain its tusks could not be considered. He pointed out in this connection that the Government had offered in 1911 a reward of Rs. 200 for the capture of a wild elephant, which is much less risky than shooting a proscribed rogue elephant.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Wright, I am glad that you have said that you are not looking at this question from a mercenary point of view. I can assure you that, when Government offered a reward of Rs. 50, that was not in any way meant for you or for any members of your Association. Government trusted that a European planter who could destroy a rogue elephant would be prepared to do it more for the sport that it affords than for any material profit. In Travancore especially, it is not easy to have elephant shooting, because you cannot shoot an elephant without special permission. In these circumstances, Government think that it will be considered a kind of privilege to be allowed to shoot an elephant. They never had the idea that an offer of Rs. 50 would tempt you or any member of your Association to take up the pursuit of a rogue elephant, if otherwise and on considerations of sport you were not prepared to do it. This offer was to induce some officers of the Forest Department—the Rangers and the Deputy Rangers who might be *shikaris*— to go out shooting; and to such men an offer of Rs. 50 is a valuable one. At the same time, as you said, Government are aware that these rogue elephants are sometimes very dangerous and kill human beings; and your suggestion regarding the reconsideration of the amount offered as reward, will be taken up by Government; but I do not think that Government can reconsider their decision that a person who shoots a rogue elephant should not consider himself entitled to the tusks.

16. Hardships caused to under-trial prisioners and suggestions for remedying the same by the introduction of sub-jail system prevalent in British India.

MR. L. ADIVARAHA AIYAR (*Shencotta taluk*) said that the subject had been pressed at two previous sessions of the Assembly but nothing favourable was done. Hence the need for its repetition. The following were the chief hardships the under-trial prisoners were subject to:—

(i) When any person is arrested by the Police for any cognisable offence, he is remanded to custody under the orders of a Magistrate, without hearing him or giving him an opportunity to engage a vakil. Instances were not also wanting where the prisoners were not allowed to talk to their vakils or even sign *vakkalats* although the law allowed it.

(ii) Applications for bail were generally discountenanced by the Police and the Magistrates.

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